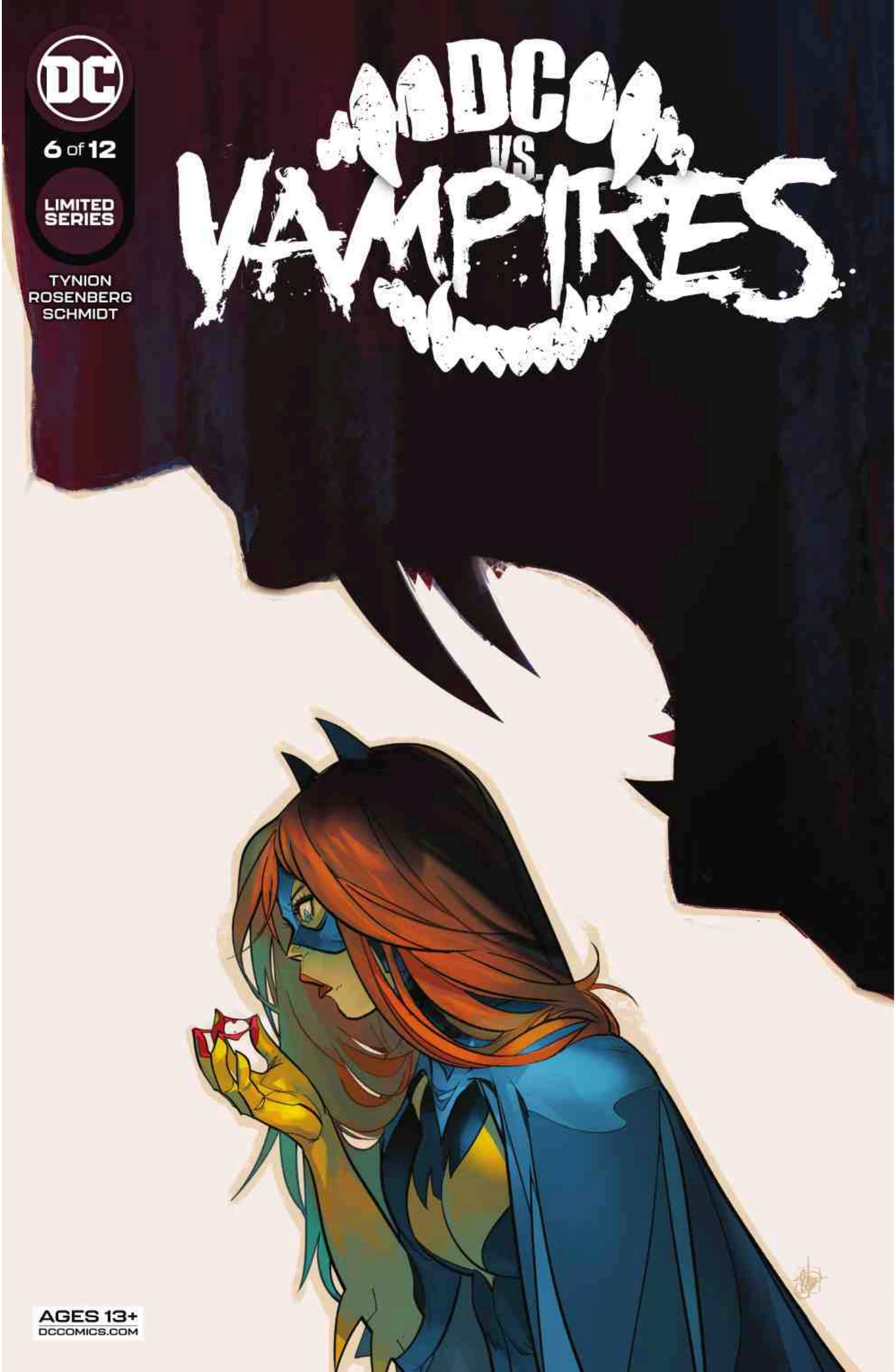
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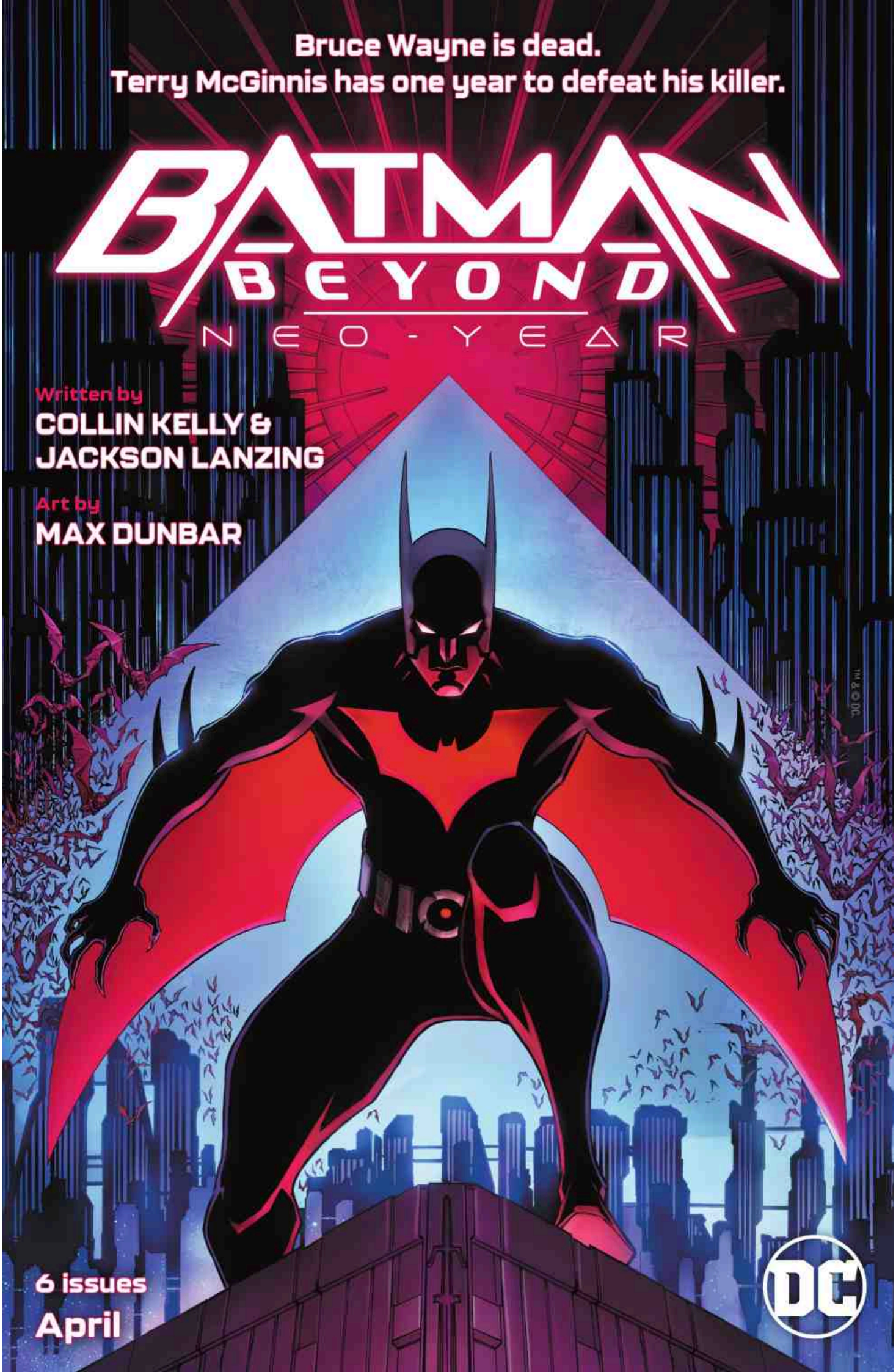

Bruce Wayne is dead.
Terry McGinnis has one year to defeat his killer.
BATMAN BEYOND
NEO-YEAR
Written by
COLLIN KELLY &
JACKSON LANZING
Art by
MAX DUNBAR
TM & © DC
6 issues
April
DC

GOTHAM HARBOR.
"IT IS READY, MASTER BRUCE."
"THANK YOU, ALFRED. LET'S HOPE IT WON'T COME TO THAT."
WRITTEN BY JAMES TYNION IV & MATTHEW ROSENBERG
ART & COLOR BY OTTO SCHMIDT, SIMONE DI MEO, DANIELE DI NICUOLO & REX LOKUS
LETTERED BY TOM NAPOLITANO MAIN COVER BY OTTO SCHMIDT
VARIANT COVER BY FRANCESCO MATTINA EDITED BY BEN ABERNATHY
SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER. BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.
ALFRED! I THOUGHT MY FATHER BLEW YOU UP.
NO, YOUNG MASTER DAMIAN. JUST MY HOME AND ALL MY POSSESSIONS.
STILL NO WORD FROM THE OTHERS?
NOTHING YET.
THEN I WILL GET TO WORK CLEANING SOME OF THIS INFERNAL YELLOW PAINT OFF YOUR POSSESSIONS TO OCCUPY MY MIND.
I WOULDN'T DO THAT JUST YET.
POWER'S COMING BACK IN PLACES. AND THE SUN WILL BE UP SOON.
DOESN'T MATTER. THEY'LL COME FOR US TONIGHT.
I CAME AS FAST AS I COULD. IS THIS EVERYONE?
YEAH.
WHERE'S BARBARA?

WHERE'S THE REST OF YOUR CREW, BATLADY?!
MY RADIO WENT OUT WITH THE POWER. WHERE'S *YOUR* BACKUP?
WE'RE THE SUICIDE SQUAD. NOBODY HAS OUR BACKS.
IT'S FOUR ON TWO. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE THESE BASTARDS.
BUT THEY'RE THE TWO *TOUGH* MEMBERS OF OUR TEAM.
HEY! I'M PLENTY TOUGH.
GERMAN GUY WITH SIDEBURNS AND A FRISBEE VERSUS SHARK VAMPIRE. IT'S REALLY ANYONE'S FIGHT.
--DO YOU READ ME? I SAY AGAIN. SUICIDE SQUAD, DO YOU READ ME?
RADIO'S WORKING AGAIN!
YOU THINK I'M *GERMAN?*

HI, AMANDA DEAR. IT'S HARLEY QUINN. WE GOT A BIT OF A PROBLEM. SAVANT AND THAT SPIDER GUY ARE DEAD.
THE TEAM SEEMS TO HAVE A LOT OF VAMPIRES ON IT AND THEY'RE TRYING TO EAT US.
WHO IS US?
ME AND DEADSHOT.
HANG TIGHT, QUINN.
BEEP
WHAT IS... OWWW?
BOOM
BEEP
BOOM
OH, C'MON. SO GROSS.
BEEP
HEY, QUINN!
SHOULDN'T YOU'VE TOLD HER I'M NOT A BITER?
BOOM
OOOPS.
I FORGOT HE WAS HERE.
YOU WERE JUST TALKING TO HIM.
YEAH, I DO THAT. LET'S KEEP THIS BETWEEN US GIRLS?
WHAT ABOUT ME?
OH... FORGOT YOU WERE THERE.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THE OTHER DOOR IS TOO BIG TO BARRICADE. SO I'M LIMITING THE ENTRANCE POINTS WE HAVE TO COVER. IF YOU CAN CONTROL THE FLOW OF THE FIGHT, YOU CAN CONTROL THE OUTCOME.
THAT'S GREAT, SUN TZU.
BUT I'M PRETTY SURE WONDER WOMAN CAN JUST RIP THE ROOF OFF.
SHORTY IS RIGHT. THEY COULD COME FROM ANYWHERE. BEST TO JUST BE READY FOR ANYTHING.
KNOCK KNOCK
BRUCE, CAN WE PLEASE TALK?
IS IT JUST THE TWO OF YOU?
FOR NOW.

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THIS WAY, BRUCE. WE WERE FRIENDS... WE *ARE* FRIENDS.
LIKE YOU WERE FRIENDS WITH BARRY?
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT. BECAUSE OF WHO WE ARE NOW, OUR CONDITION. BUT YOU CAN STILL HELP US, BRUCE. YOU ALL CAN.
JOIN US. BECOME US, AND YOU WILL SEE.
THINK OF ALL YOU COULD ACCOMPLISH AS AN IMMORTAL, AS A GOD. ALL YOU COULD DO FOR HUMANKIND *AND* VAMPIREKIND. YOU COULD HELP US SHAPE THE WORLD INTO WHAT IT SHOULD BE.
NO.
DON'T SAY I DIDN'T TRY.

YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T DEFEAT ME, BRUCE.
WE'LL SEE.
YOU'RE GETTING SLOW AS YOU GET OLDER. IT'S ALMOST LIKE YOU WANTED TO GET CAUGHT.
YES.
I KNEW IT.
SHE'S GOT HIM WITH THE ROPE.
LET'S GO.
CLICK
TELL ME, WHILE THE LASSO OF TRUTH COMPELS YOU...
HAVEN'T YOU DREAMT OF BEING AN IMMORTAL CREATURE OF IMMEASURABLE POWER, HUNTING IN THE NIGHT?
I HAVE.

SHUNK
SHUNK
YEAH! EAT LIGHT, SUCKERS!
GAH! HAL, SHUT IT OFF!
DICK, DAMIAN, STOP THE LANTERN!
THIS WAY. GET BEHIND HER.
WHAT ARE YOU--?
TAKE HIM, CASS!
YOU SEEK TO BIND ME WITH MY OWN LASSO?! RELEASE ME!
WONDY IS DOWN. YOU'RE NEXT, SPACE COP.

RRRAAAGGH!
ARE WE SURE THIS WILL HOLD HER?
IF YOU HAVE ANOTHER PLAN TO CONTAIN A VAMPIRE GODDESS, I'D LOVE TO HEAR IT.
HELP ME GET HIM OUT OF HERE.
ENOUGH!
THAT WAS IT?!
THAT WAS THE PLAN OF THE LEGENDARY BATMAN?
YOU ASSUMED A LAMP WOULD STOP US?

YOU RISKED THE LIVES OF EVERYONE YOU CARE ABOUT, AND FOR WHAT?
WE ALL MUST MAKE ASSUMPTIONS IN A FIGHT, HAL.
WE ASSUMED THE LAMP WOULD SLOW YOU DOWN...
...AND YOU ASSUMED ONLY PEOPLE IN MASKS WOULD STAND UP TO YOU.
GOOD JOB, ALFRED. YOU CAN WASH THAT PAINT OFF THE AXE NOW IF YOU'D LIKE.
"I THINK IT'S OVER. YOU CAN STOP NOW."

THEY'RE VAMPIRES, HARLEY.
IT'S NOT OVER UNTIL YOU PUT A STAKE THROUGH THEIR HEARTS.
SO, LIKE, DO THEIR HEADS GROW BACK OR ARE THEY JUST VAMPIRES WITHOUT HEADS? 'CUZ THAT DOESN'T SEEM SO BAD.
I... I GUESS THEY GROW BACK?
AWW. CUTE.
JOB'S NOT OVER. WE STILL GOTTA FIND THE JOKER.
SAME.
SOUNDS LIKE YOU JUST JOINED THE SUICIDE SQUAD. FIRST RULE--
WHOA!
NEVER MIND. JOB'S OVER.
SOMEONE DRAINED ALL THE BLOOD OUT OF HIM.
WHOA. DID I DO THIS?
THIS FEELS LIKE SOMETHING I'D DO, BUT I DON'T REMEMBER DOING THIS.
GUESS HE ISN'T OUR GUY, HUH?
BUT IF HE'S NOT THE VAMPIRE KING...

"...WHO IS?"
DOES THIS SEEM EXTRA CRUEL RIGHT NOW?
SHE CAME HERE TO EAT US.
I KNOW. BUT STILL...
YOU WON'T WIN. IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE.
WE BEAT YOU, DIDN'T WE?
WE DON'T MATTER.
WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT THE KING WILL GIVE HIS SIGNAL AND WE WILL EMERGE FROM THE SHADOWS TO TAKE WHAT IS OURS.
YEAH... BUT WE BEAT YOU.
WE HAVE SUPERMAN NOW. THANKS TO YOU, BRUCE. WHAT WILL YOU DO WHEN HE ARRIVES?
WHO ELSE?
EVERYONE.
I'LL CONTACT THE REST OF THE LEAGUE AND TELL THEM TO MEET US HERE. THERE'S SAFETY IN NUMBERS.
KEEP AN EYE ON HIM, OLLIE.

WHAT DO YOU WANT, OLLIE?
I WANT TO UNDERSTAND.
UNDERSTAND WHAT?
I JUST... I WANT TO SEE IF ANY OF MY FRIEND IS STILL IN THERE SOMEWHERE.
IT'S ME. IT'S HAL.
I'M THE SAME PERSON AS ALWAYS, JUST... CHANGED. BUT IT'S ME IN HERE, OLLIE.
ALL OF MY MEMORIES, OUR ADVENTURES TOGETHER, ALL OF IT. WE WERE THE "HARD-TRAVELING HEROES."
IT'S NOT GONE. I PROMISE YOU.
THAT'S WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF.
WHAT DO YOU--
THE FRIEND I LOVED LIKE A BROTHER IS TRAPPED IN THERE.
AND EVEN IF HE CAN'T SAY IT NOW, I KNOW HE COULDN'T LIVE WITH WHAT HE DID TO BARRY.
THIS IS FOR BARRY.
AND THIS IS FOR YOU, MY BROTHER.

NOOOO!
...I'LL CALL YOU BACK, AQUAMAN.
OLLIE--
NOT NOW.
WE CAN'T JUST--
TALK TO ME WHEN YOU'VE HAD TO PUT DOWN ONE OF YOUR PEOPLE. UNTIL THEN, YOU SHUT YOUR DAMN MOUTH.
I'M SORRY, OLLIE.
BATMAN, COME IN. BATMAN, DO YOU READ ME?
BATGIRL. I TRIED TO REACH YOU BUT THE RADIOS WENT DOWN WITH--
SHUT UP AND LISTEN. I FOUND THE JOKER BUT HE'S DEAD. THE VAMPIRES KILLED HIM. HE WASN'T THEIR KING.
ALL THE CLUES, ALL THE EVIDENCE WE FOUND, ALL THE CHATTER POINTED TOWARD HIM. THEY WANTED US TO THINK IT WAS HIM. BRUCE, THERE ARE ONLY A FEW PEOPLE WHO COULD HAVE FOOLED US LIKE THIS...
THE VAMPIRE KING IS ONE OF US!
UNDERSTOOD. GREAT JOB, BARBARA. SEE YOU SOON.
EVERYTHING OKAY?
YES. SHE THINKS SHE KNOWS WHERE THE JOKER IS. SHE IS COMING HERE--

UGHHK!
I THINK IT'S TIME WE BOTH STOPPED LYING TO OUR FAMILY, FATHER.

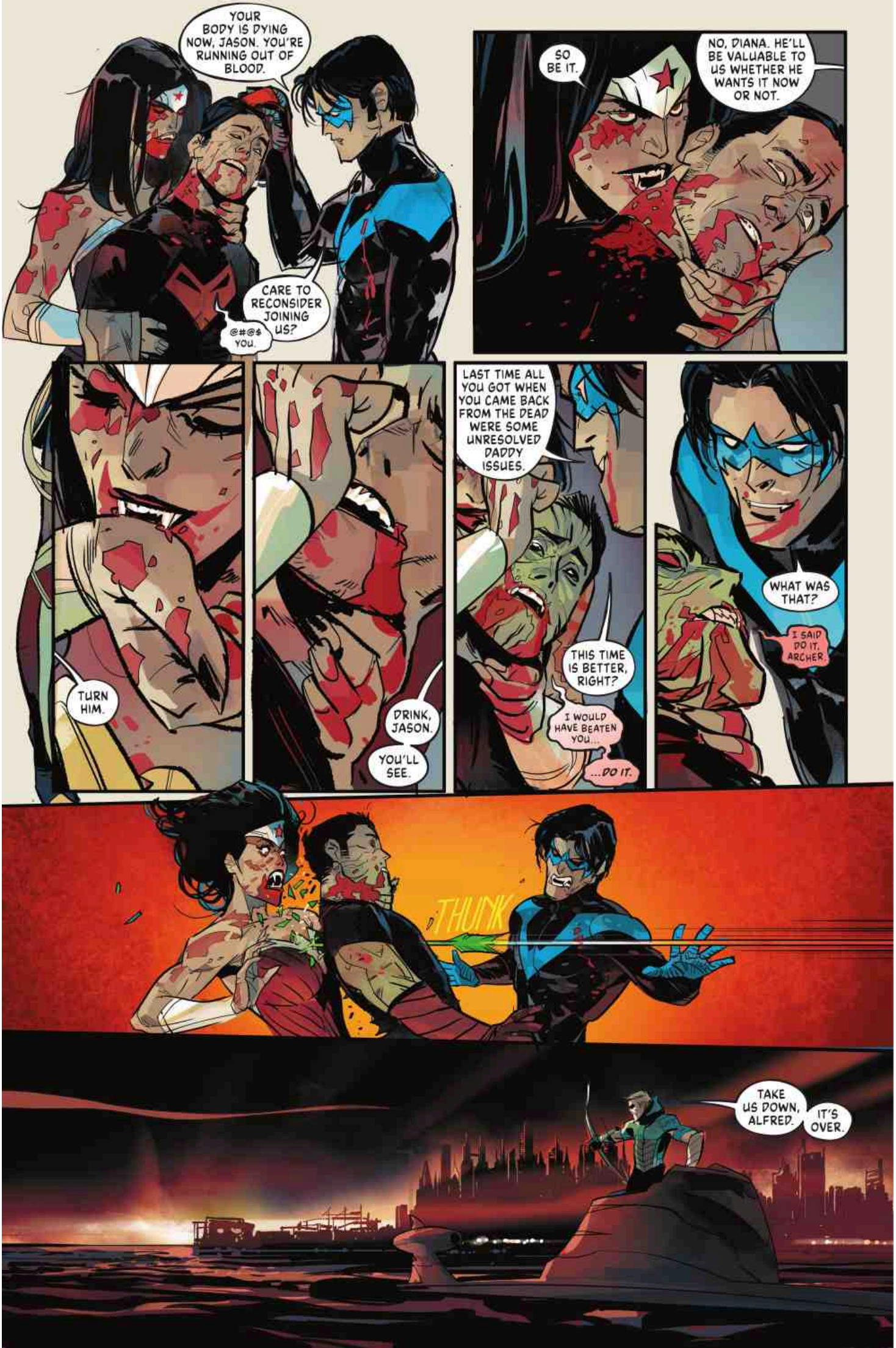
I WISH I COULD HAVE TURNED YOU, BUT EVEN IF I HAD I STILL NEVER COULD HAVE TRUSTED YOU.
NOOOO!
YOU ALL MUST CALM DOWN.
FATHER, HANG ON.
PLEASE. PLEASE.

THIS IS SILLY.
I WAS BETTER THAN ALL OF YOU WHEN I WAS STILL HUMAN.
BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO COME TO THIS.
JOIN ME.
=GRRAH=
SNAP
ALFRED! HE'LL KILL THEM ALL. WE HAVE TO GET THEM OUT NOW.
B-BUT HOW?
I KNOW BATMAN HAD AN ESCAPE PLAN.
THAT'S WHAT HE DID.
YOU COULD HAVE JUST SAID NO, OLLIE.
BUT I'M NOT SURE WE WANT YOU AFTER WHAT YOU JUST DID TO HAL.
DICK! HOW COULD YOU?

HOW COULD I?
DON'T BE NAIVE, TIM.
DO YOU THINK OUR "FATHER" WOULDN'T HAVE KILLED ME JUST AS EASILY?
I AM THE LORD OF ALL VAMPIRES NOW.
I DEFENDED MYSELF AND PREVENTED THE GENOCIDE THAT MAN WOULD HAVE COMMITTED.
BUT YOU CAN'T BE. I SAW YOU PASS ALL THE TESTS.
FUNNY THING.
YOU SPENT SO MUCH TIME WITH YOUR BAT-FAMILY WHEN YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN LOOKING OUT FOR YOUR OTHER FAMILY, TIMMY.
YOUR DEAR STARFIRE...WE COULDN'T TURN HER, BUT WE FOUND OUT HER BLOOD HAS FASCINATING PROPERTIES.
NO!
IT DOESN'T LAST LONG, BUT JUST A FEW DROPS ALLOW ME TO HOLD A CROSS...
...TOUCH HOLY WATER, WALK IN THE SUN.
I CAN DO ALL THE THINGS YOU CAN DO...
...BUT STILL BE SO MUCH BETTER THAN YOU.
CRUNCH
MASTER ARROW, OUR ESCAPE HAS ARRIVED.

YOU'RE DEAD, GRAYSON!
YOU'RE @#$%@#$ DEAD!
KID, WE HAVE TO FALL BACK! HE'S TOO POWERFUL.
GRAAAH!
SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO MR. QUEEN, DAMIAN.
YOU COULD HAVE BEEN THE BEST OF US IF IT WEREN'T FOR THAT LITTLE TEMPER.
I'LL KILL YOU!
NO. SADLY, YOU WON'T.
GET HER ON THE BOAT. I'LL GO GET THE KID.
IT'S TOO LATE FOR HIM. COME ON.
I HAVE TO TRY.

YOU CAN'T WIN, JASON. I WAS BETTER THAN YOU EVERY TIME WE EVER FACED OFF. AND NOW I'M GODLIKE.
I WAS ALWAYS HOLDING BACK.
IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN ME, JASON. I'M SUDDENLY IN NEED OF A NEW LIEUTENANT.
GRAH!
ALL THESE YEARS SPENT LIVING IN YOUR DAMN SHADOW, AND YOU THINK I WANT TO SPEND ETERNITY UNDER YOU? YOU DON'T GET ME AT ALL, MAN.
EVERYONE SAID YOU WERE THE BEST TO EVER DO IT.
BUT I ALWAYS KNEW SOMEDAY YOU'D SCREW UP WORSE THAN ANYONE.
SOUNDS LIKE YOU HAVE A LOT OF ISSUES TO WORK THROUGH.
LUCKILY YOU'LL HAVE CENTURIES TO DO IT.
DID YOU REALLY THINK SHE WAS GOING TO STAY TIED UP FOREVER?

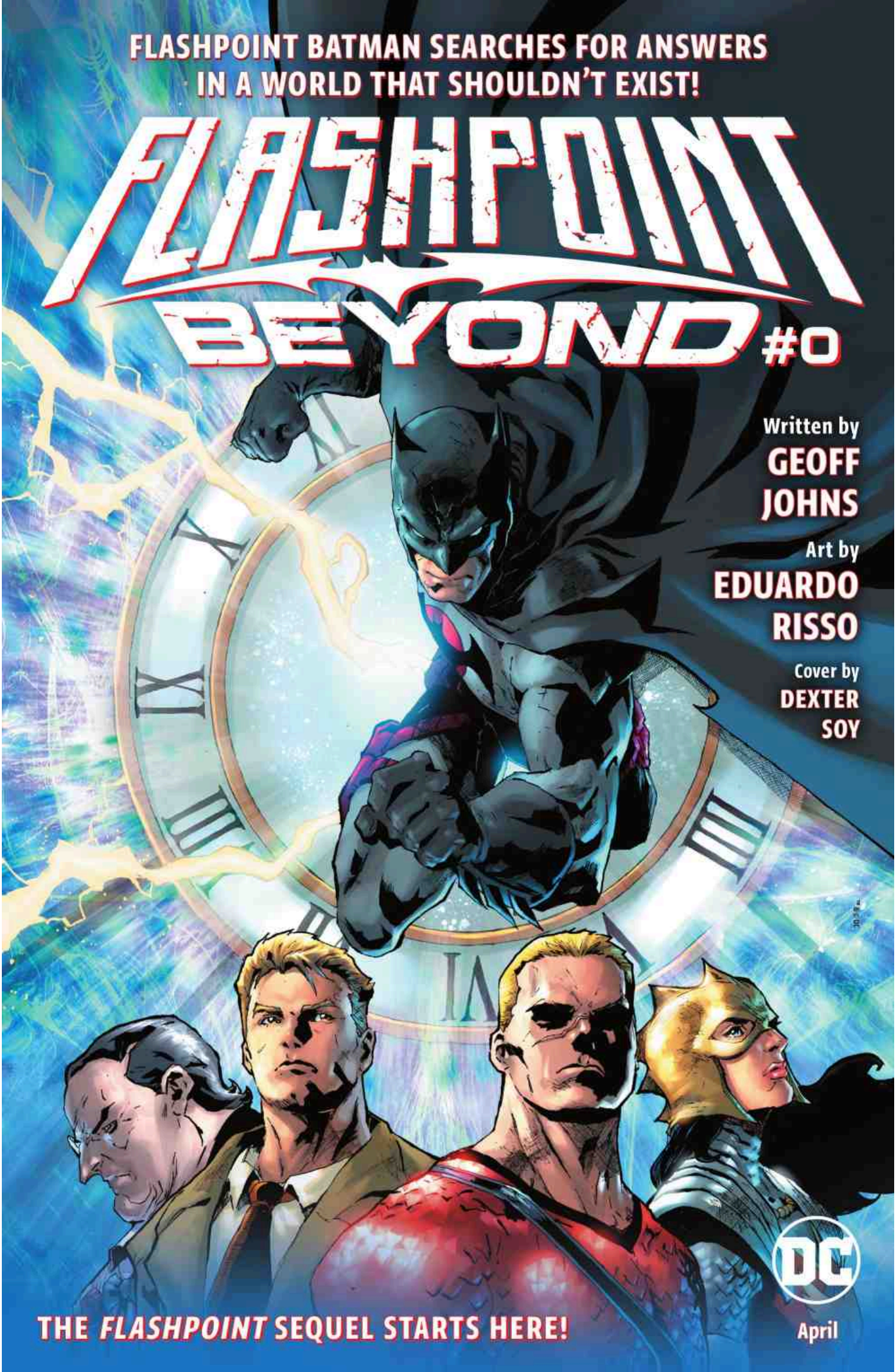

YOUR BODY IS DYING NOW, JASON. YOU'RE RUNNING OUT OF BLOOD.
CARE TO RECONSIDER JOINING US?
@#@$ YOU.
SO BE IT.
NO, DIANA. HE'LL BE VALUABLE TO US WHETHER HE WANTS IT NOW OR NOT.
TURN HIM.
DRINK, JASON.
YOU'LL SEE.
LAST TIME ALL YOU GOT WHEN YOU CAME BACK FROM THE DEAD WERE SOME UNRESOLVED DADDY ISSUES.
THIS TIME IS BETTER, RIGHT?
I WOULD HAVE BEATEN YOU...
...DO IT.
WHAT WAS THAT?
I SAID DO IT, ARCHER.
THUNK
TAKE US DOWN, ALFRED.
IT'S OVER.

LET THEM GO. THEY'RE NO THREAT TO US ANYMORE.
YES, MY LORD.
I JUST WANTED ONE OF MY BROTHERS TO JOIN ME. IS THAT SO MUCH TO ASK?
THE LITTLE ONE IS STILL ALIVE. BARELY.
"TELL THE OTHERS OUR PLAN BEGINS NOW.
"TONIGHT WE TOPPLE THEIR SEATS OF POWER THAT MAKE THEM FEEL SECURE.
"TONIGHT WE BURN THEIR LIFE-GIVING FORESTS AND JUNGLES TO THE GROUND."

"TONIGHT THEIR HEROES WILL DISCOVER THAT THE WAR IS ALREADY LOST FOR THEM BEFORE THEY EVEN KNEW IT BEGAN.

"AND AS THE SMOKE RISES, THE HUMANS WILL LOOK TO THE BLACKENED SKIES FOR A DAWN THAT WILL NEVER COME, AND THEY WILL KNOW THEIR TIME IS AT AN END.

THE WORLD IS OURS NOW.
THE ETERNAL DARKNESS HAS BEGUN.
TO BE CONTINUED!


FLASHPOINT BATMAN SEARCHES FOR ANSWERS
IN A WORLD THAT SHOULDN'T EXIST!
FLASHPOINT
BEYOND #0
Written by
GEOFF
JOHNS
Art by
EDUARDO
RISSO
Cover by
DEXTER
SOY
THE FLASHPOINT SEQUEL STARTS HERE!
April

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

BATMAN BEYOND NEO-YEAR

INTERVIEW WITH
COLLIN KELLY AND JACKSON LANZING

Neo-Gotham is alive. Bruce Wayne is dead. New six-issue series *Batman Beyond: Neo-Year* from the writing duo of Collin Kelly and Jackson Lanzing and artist Max Dunbar details Terry McGinnis's first year without his mentor, protecting a city determined to kill him.

What does the original *Batman Beyond* animated series mean to you?

Collin Kelly: All of Bruce Timm and Paul Dini's animated work was formative, a legacy of storytelling that cracked open the entire DCU to a generation. Kevin Conroy *is* my Batman...which made Terry taking on the mantle so captivating to watch.

Jackson Lanzing: Getting to push the concept in a new direction is a staggering opportunity. Terrifying, because we're moving out of the comfort zone and the rails set down in the series. But also really exciting, because of all the story territory this new era opens.

Now that Bruce Wayne is gone, what is life like for Terry? How does this change the way he handles being Batman?

Lanzing: Terry's life is soaked in the tragedy of losing his mentor and the deep responsibility of carrying the mantle forward without Bruce Wayne in his ear. He's running out of the once-infinite resources he enjoyed. The only real ally left to him is Barbara Gordon, who knows all too well the cost of being a vigilante in Gotham City.

But at the same time, Terry is aware of a truth no one else knows: that Neo-Gotham is alive, that it is malicious, and that it is hunting and manipulating its own citizens. It's easily the darkest moment in Terry's life thus far—but Batman has never been more needed. It's a perfect crucible for Terry to rethink and reinvent the concept of Batman.

What has it been like collaborating with artists Max Dunbar and Sebastian Cheng?

Kelly: If you go back to the animated series, you'll be reminded that the buildings of Neo-Gotham rise like slate-gray monuments, and the sky is as dark as a bruise. Even though there is some cyberpunk to the world...it's never the point. And it never shines away the shadows. That is what Max and Sebastian perfectly capture. A sense of Gotham as living place, with its head in the smog and its feet in the trash.

As the series keeps moving—and you meet Terry's incoming supporting cast—you're going to be blown away with what they've come up with.

DON'T MISS *BATMAN BEYOND: NEO-YEAR* #1, ON SALE IN APRIL!

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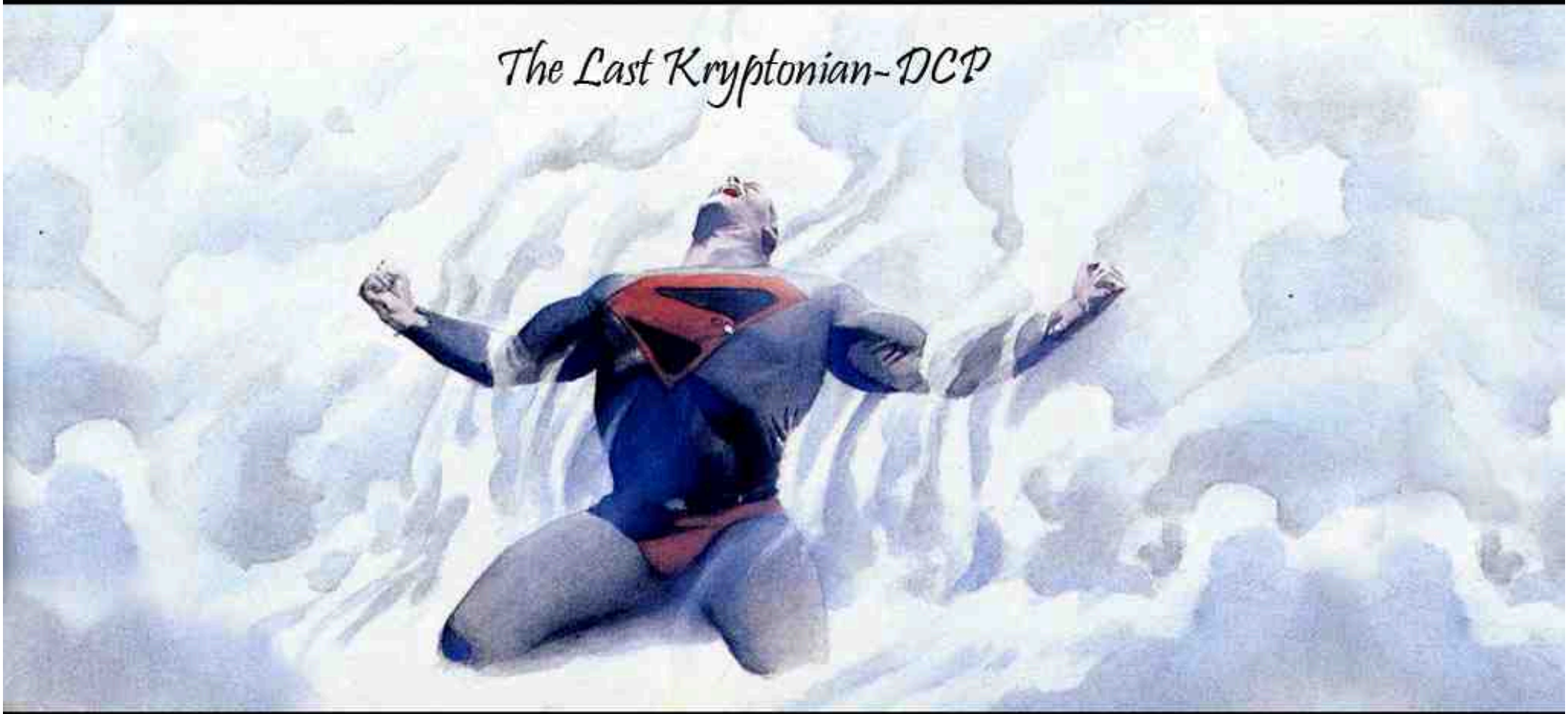
The Last Kryptonian-DCP